COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

A Tradition of Service

DATE: July 13, 2010

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE FILE NO. SH2249118

FROM: ERIC B. SMITH, COMMANDER
LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING DIVISION

TO: KARYN MANNIS, CAPTAIN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE DISPOSITION:**
DEPUTY BENJAMIN J. ALVARADO #[redacted]
DEPUTY MICHAEL J. ESPINOSA #[redacted]
LAKEWOOD STATION

On Friday, July 24, 2009, Lakewood Station Deputies responded to a report of an assault with a deadly weapon at [redacted] Cornuta Avenue, Bellflower. Upon their arrival Deputy Errol Payne, #[redacted] established a containment and began a systematic search for the two suspects, Raul Hidalgo and Charles Gonzalez. Deputies Espinoza and Alvarado began searching, on foot, a parking lot adjacent to an apartment complex.

After completing their search of the parking lot, Deputies Espinoza and Alvarado heard noises consistent with someone attempting to scale a fence located immediately to their north. The deputies turned and observed one individual (Suspect Gonzalez) and then another (Suspect Hidalgo) scaling a wood and concrete fence. As Suspect Hidalgo straddled the fence, both deputies observed that he was armed with a handgun. Deputy Espinosa yelled, "Gun." Deputy Alvarado ordered Suspect Hidalgo to show his hands. Suspect Hidalgo pointed the weapon at the deputies.

Deputies Espinoza and Alvarado, in fear of their lives, fired their Department issued sidearms at Suspect Hidalgo. Both suspects, apparently uninjured, fled.

Canine Services Detail and a Special Weapons Team conducted an extensive search of the area and Suspects Gonzalez and Hidalgo were eventually located hiding in a small house and were taken into custody.

On July 8, 2010 the Executive Force Review Committee convened and conducted a review regarding the facts of this case. The applicable policies that were evaluated by the committee were: MPP §§ 3-01/025.00, Use of Force; 3-01/025.30, Use of Firearms and Deadly Force; 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force; and 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards.

Concerning:

MPP § 3-01/025.00, Use of Force, MPP § 3-01/025.30, Use of Firearms and Deadly Force, and MPP § 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force, the Committee determined that the force used by Deputies Benjamin J. Alvarado #[redacted] and Michael J. Espinosa #[redacted] was reasonable and necessary and in compliance with Department policy.

MPP § 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards, the Committee determined that the tactics employed by all personnel in this incident were within Department Policy.

Eric B. Smith, Commander

EBS:RSP/rsp